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VOLUME VI, NO. 1 APRIL, 1983

TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS NEWSLETTER

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to be here in Los Altos Hills and have been gratified by the positive working relationship developing with the Mayor and City Council, the Town staff and Town residents. The City Council soon will be establishing the Town's priorities for the year. There is much to do. The help of citizens committees and residents in general will be greatly appreciated as we take a team approach to the Town's needs--a team of which we are each a part. I am looking forward to achieving our goals and to getting to know the community better.

The **Community Relations Committee of Los Altos Hills** cordially invites residents to attend a reception **Tuesday, April 19th** to meet our new City Manager, ANN HINSHAW. The Mayor's Report, introduction of the City Manager, Staff and Committees will begin in Council Chambers at 4:30, followed by a reception in the Town Hall Patio. Refreshments provided by Town Committees and Robert Mondavi Winery.

TOWN PARADE

The **THIRD ANNUAL HILLS PARADE** and **COUNTRY FAIR,** sponsored by the Town Hall and Hills Little League will be held on **May 21st.** Last year was a great success! This year will be even bigger and better as already there are more participants than previously. It will be a day packed with enthusiastic fun, giving you the opportunity to see your friends, neighbors and community leaders. Mark your calendars -whether you plan to participate in the parade or just watch the festivities.

The Grand Marshall, FRANK DUVENEK, will lead the parade which begins at Bullis Purissima School at 11:00 a.m., concluding at the Hills Little League Field with the Country Fair. Decorate an old or new vehicle and join the parade followed by the exhibition baseball game, food and refreshments, live music, pony rides, pitch-and-toss games . . . fun for all! Be comfortable, casual, and ready to have a great day in the Hills!

Please call Councilman DAVID PROET or PAT DOWD at 941-7222 if you are interested in participating in the parade, fair, or baseball game between the Hills community and the Little League coaches.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

By any standard the period since the last election has been an eventful one.

At its first meeting last April, the new Council quickly acted on the issues mandated by the voters and then turned to the tasks ahead. The vacancy created by the retiring city manager had to be filled promptly. Council decided to do so by selecting a highly qualified acting manager in order to have sufficient time to select a permanent replacement. **Marty Tarshes** arrived in early June and was in full charge in a short three weeks.

As events moved quickly, Council realized how fortunate we were to have Marty's experience and insight. Marty presented a new and highly restricted budget in early August which was adopted shortly thereafter. Matadero Creek Subdivision was the major issue and required constant attention. After careful study, the firm of Fox & Carskadon was selected September 1st to act as exclusive sales agent for the project. The results were dramatic. All the lots have been sold. Moreover, all but four of the twenty lots sold were cash transactions.

As the summer advanced, it was clear that Marty's original term of three months "or so" was totally unrealistic. Bowing to special techniques known only to Council, Marty agreed to stay on at least to year's end. In mid-November Marty submitted to Council his list of five candidates for manager drawn from 100 applications. In late November Council announced **Ann Hinshaw's** appointment effective January 1, 1983.

In spite of severe fund limitations, Marty and staff with great ingenuity were also able to improve the Fremont Road S-curve path and to reconstruct the path guard rail. In addition, bots-dots were installed on the curve center line to greatly improve traffic safety. As his final act, Marty successfully negotiated a contract extension with the Palo Alto Unified School District in order to continue the orderly lot sale program. Marty remains a consultant and valued critic.

Clearly Ann's first three months have been exciting, if not chaotic. Unprecedented rains, floods, winds, power outages, road failures to say nothing of five eager Council persons brimming with great ideas and ultimate solutions have more than occupied her every hour. Yet through it all Ann remains calm and collected, taking the issues one at a time.

The problems are being addressed and the future is bright. But above all, there is the overriding understanding that Town Hall staff and Council exist for one purpose, namely to service you, the citizens of Los Altos Hills.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Town's **Safety Committee** is to help reduce crime and traffic accidents and prepare the Town for possible disasters.

The Town contracts for police services from the Sheriff and the Safety Committee monitors the performance of these services. The committee would like to hear from those residents who have had occasion to use these services.

An alert town is a safe town. Whenever you see something suspicious, call 911 and report it. If you observe excessive spending, let us know. If you are interested in forming a neighborhood watch, let us know. You can contact the committee through the Town Clerk at 941-7222.

The committee is also helping the Town to be better prepared for a serious disaster. If our area experienced a major earthquake, it is likely that we could expect little outside help during the first 48 hours. There are many things we can do to prepare ourselves. A good place to start is for everyone in your family to read page A13 in the front of the Telephone Directory.

PATHWAY COMMITTEE

The rains are bound to stop soon, and paths will once again be used regularly. Now is the time to inspect the pathway in front of your home. If it needs clearing, you can help your town and get just the results you want if you clear it yourself. If that is impossible, or more repair is needed, please call Town Hall, 941-7222 and it will be put on the work schedule. In fact, please report any pathway in town which you notice needs clearing or repair.

If you are willing to help clear and maintain the paths, we urgently need you. Call **Fran Stevenson** at 493-0464.

WARNING!! If you are considering resurfacing a driveway, please check for a pathway crossing at the street junction and avoid using any slippery surfacing for at least 10 feet from the street in the pathway area. Especially avoid the new coal-tar derivatives which are simply applied by brushing. Many equestrians have slipped and fallen on these surfaces! If you, or anyone you know, has fallen, please report it to Town Hall.

MATADERO CREEK SUBDIVISION

All lots in the Matadero Creek Subdivision have been sold. This is the culmination of extensive efforts by Council, Planning Commission, and staff. Some compromises were necessary at times, but the original concepts of open space, low density development, and minimal development on each individual lot have been retained.

The Town of Los Altos Hills made its first major commitment of funds to the Matadero Creek Subdivision in January 1981 with the purchase of 59 acres of land from the Palo Alto Unified School District. The purchase price was $2,750,000. The terms called for a $10,000 down payment; payment of the balance of $2,740,000 by December 31, 1982; and a variable interest rate on the unpaid balance which resulted in rates of approximately 12.50% in 1981 and 14.79% in 1982. A supplemental agreement was approved in January 1983 extending the repayment date to December 1983, and setting a 1983 interest rate of 12% on the unpaid balance.

Design of the subdivision and engineering for the basic improvements (streets, sewers, drainage, etc.) was completed in 1981. The contract for the improvements was awarded in September 1981. Most of the work was completed by the middle of 1982, with some corrective and supplemental work extending for several months thereafter.

The subdivision design, which at the direction of the City Council dedicated considerable acreage to open space and conservation easements, resulted in twenty lots of varying sizes and shapes. Lot prices, based on an appraisal, ranged from $200,000 to $320,000.

The lots were first advertised for sale under a public hearing process. Bids were accepted on three lots in April 1982 and a fourth lot was sold in July 1982. In that month the City Council decided to sell the remainder of the lots through a licensed real estate broker, in order to utilize professional marketing and sales techniques. After soliciting and screening proposals from various brokers, the firm of Fox and Carskadon was selected in September 1982. By late March, 1983, the remaining lots had been sold. Three of the twenty sales were at the full list prices, at terms of 25% down and the balance payable in three years with monthly interest payments at an annual rate of 14%. Seventeen lots were sold for higher down payments, at discounts ranging up to 10% for full cash payment.

The final accounting is dependent upon the length of time the notes are held, the interest due the Town's General Fund and the Palo Alto Unified School District, and the administrative costs, which are difficult to define accurately at this point. It seems likely, however, that the final totals of income and expense will be quite close, and that the Town will at least recover its costs on this project. All obligations to the PAUSD will be paid off during April.

One fact seems definitely estabished: The Town's cash position and budgetary outlook, which have been severely burdened by expenditures for this project, will be considerably improved on July 1, 1983, the start of the new fiscal year.

EDPR COMMITTEE

The **Environmental Design, Parks and Recreation Committee** is entrusted with the charge to work for the beautification of the Town and the improvement of its outdoor recreational facilities.

One member acts as a representative to the Site Development and Subdivision Committee, assisting in implementing the landscape policy of Los Altos Hills. The EDPRC is currently investigating recreational facilities available in the Town and acting as a liaison between the Town and existing clubs, schools, and organizations concerned with recreational matters.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Los Altos Hills Historical Society needs your information for their work on unusual trees (their location and description) and on heritage homes. The president, **Irma Goldsmith**, researches naming of new streets and presents these to the Council. Your family can join the Society for $5.00 a year. Please mail your fee to Peg Alexander, 27200 Elena Avenue, Los Altos Hills.

RECYCLING

A recycling center is now in operation on a trial basis at Foothill College (Parking Lot A). Paper, cans, and glass are accepted on **Saturdays** from **10:00 to 4:00.** The future of the center depends on the amount of use, compliance with the hours of operation, and the neatness of the area.

WESTWIND BARN

WESTWIND BARN will be holding a fundraising **flea market** on Saturday and Sunday, **April 16-17**, with a rain date of April 23-24. We have booth space available, so consider cleaning out your garage and joining us.

The hours of the flea market are to be 9:00 to 5:00 for sellers and 10:00 to 4:00 for buyers. The fee for individuals is $10.00 for one day, or $15.00 for two days, plus 10% of total receipts, with a $15.00 refundable cleanup deposit payable at registration. Contact **Jo Lundell** at 948-0982 for further information and registration materials.

If you do not wish to have a booth, you may donate articles to the Barn or to the Westwind 4-H handicapped riding program. In any event you are welcome to come, browse and shop.

FOOTNOTES

The City Council established a **Standing Committee on Finance** on March 16th to serve as an advisory group to Council.

A **PG&E representative** will be at City Council Meeting on Wednesday, April 6th at 7:30 p.m. to explain the Town's frequent outages the past few months.

A revised **False Alarm Ordinance** is currently being considered by the Council. During each year, beginning with the date of the first false alarm, a service charge of $25 shall be imposed for the third false alarm; $35 for the fourth; $45 for the fifth and so on up to $95 for the tenth.

Committee Vacancies - There are currently vacancies on the Town's Standing Committees. All residents who are interested in volunteering their time and effort in active community involvement are encouraged to fill out an application at the Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road.

Tips for Parents - Teach your children the name of your nearest cross street. This is important for emergencies and 911 dispatch services.

Would you like to know more about the history of our Town? The **History Room** is open every Tuesday from 1:00 to 5:00 or by appointment. Call Rosemary Meyerott, Town Historian at 948-5970. There are newspaper clippings from 1955 to present and a small library of books. Donations of books pertaining to area history as well as autographed books by local authors would be appreciated. The History Room will be open during the April 19th reception.

Weed Control - Residents are advised that discing can cause soil erosion. Mowing is an effective method of weed control for fire protection, and especially after this heavy winter, is recommended.

Deputies would be able to shorten response time if it were easier to find house numbers. Be sure that your driveway numbers are clear and visible from both directions.

CLEAN-UP DAY

For their customers only, Los Altos Garbage Company has set aside another weekend day for the placement of large containers throughout the Town. The pick-up is scheduled for **Saturday, April 16th** between the hours of **7:30 a.m.** and **2:00 p.m.** (be there early as the trucks must leave by 2:00 p.m.) at the following locations:

- Town Hall Parking Lot
- Magdalena @ IS-280
- Moody Road @ Altamont
- Altamont Road @ Black Mountain
- Page Mill Road @ Arastradero Road (West)

TOWN HALL CLEAN-UP

In preparation for the reception on April 19th, the Community Relations Committee will sponsor a Town Hall clean-up day **Saturday, April 16th**, starting at 9:30 a.m. If you can spare a few hours to help pull weeds, prune trees, etc. your help would be greatly appreciated.